

and also the kind of contributions that have been made, once again, to see that there would be the same enthusiasm for fitting within this budget framework some of the benefits we would like to provide for our citizens, the same as we provide for the very wealthiest corporate executives who seem to be doing very well despite the difficult economic times.

I thank the Senator from Florida for bringing these matters to the Senate this evening. It was an excellent discussion. I look forward to our continuing it again soon.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank my distinguished colleague. It is always a pleasure to hear from him. I appreciate his undergirding of my comments this evening.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 123

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives a continuing resolution from the House, provided it is identical to H.J. Res. 123, the Senate proceed to consider the resolution, that it be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that a copy of the resolution be printed in the RECORD upon the granting of this consent.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

H.J. RES. 123

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 107-229 is further amended by striking the date specified in section 107(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "November 22, 2002".

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we all know, Congress has not yet completed action on 11 appropriations bills. These bills fund such important domestic priorities as homeland security, education, and veterans medical care.

In order to keep these important functions of Government up and run-

ning, we have already worked with the House to pass two continuing resolutions, the last of which expires on Friday.

The House of Representatives has just passed and sent to the Senate a third continuing resolution. House Republicans are now proposing that we leave town and let the Government run on autopilot until November 22.

Why November 22? By picking a Friday a week before Thanksgiving, House Republicans are signaling they are not serious about completing the appropriations bills in November either. It will be extraordinarily difficult, in the several days before Thanksgiving, for us to get all the parties together to settle all the issues that have been insoluble for the past several months.

The House Republican proposal seems designed to be an auto-pilot until next year, a recipe for a CR that starves basic Government programs essential to the health and well-being of millions of Americans. Indeed, several leading Republicans have indicated this is really their preference.

Senators should not be under any illusion: a long-term CR will do just that. It will starve vital functions of Government. And you don't have to take my word for it. According to Representative BILL YOUNG, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a long-term CR, "would have disastrous impacts on the war on terror, homeland security, and other important Government responsibilities."

Chairman YOUNG wrote that sentence in a memo he sent to Speaker HASTERT. The memo went even further, detailing the impact of a CR on a host of important domestic programs. Here is a sampling of what Chairman YOUNG said will be cut: FBI, funding to hire additional agents to fight terrorism and to continue information technology upgrades would be denied; bioterrorism, no funding for President's \$800 million initiative to increase funding for new basic bioterror research, to develop and test a new improved anthrax vaccine, and to assist universities and research institutions; first responders, no funding for President's \$3.5 billion initiative to provide assistance to local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency response teams; SEC/corporate responsibility, insufficient funding to support current staffing requirements let alone significant staff increases needed to monitor corporate behavior; veterans medical care, long-term CR would leave veterans medical health care system at least \$2.5 billion short of expected requirements; firefighting, \$1.5 billion taken from other Interior Department programs to pay for firefighting costs will not be replaced; Pell grants, a freeze in this program will result in a shortfall of over \$900 million; Medicare claims, no funding for the President's \$143 million increase to ensure that the growing number of claims are processed in a timely manner; Special Sup-

plemental Feeding Program for WIC, funding would be reduced by \$114 million below current levels, meaning less will be available for families that depend on this program; Social Security claims, no funding for the President's increase to process and pay benefits to millions of Social Security recipients.

In addition to the program cuts listed by Chairman YOUNG, the House CR omits assistance for thousands of farmers all over this country who are confronting the worst drought in more than 50 years.

This is the wrong way to do business. We should be completing our work on the bipartisan appropriations bills, not cutting education, veterans affairs, homeland security and other important priorities.

Each of these bills properly funds key priorities. And, most importantly, each enjoyed the unanimous support of the Democrats and the Republicans on the Committee.

There is no reason why the full Senate cannot do the same. Passage of these bills would fund Government for a year, with no need for any more stop-gap, starvation diet CRs.

Regrettably, our Republican colleagues in the House have refused all year to consider appropriate funding levels for crucial functions of Government, even though all Senators on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Democrats and Republicans, were able to agree on all 13 bills.

The difference between the aggregate total of spending for the bipartisan Senate bills and the aggregate total proposed by the House Republican budget resolution is roughly \$9 billion in budget authority. That's a tiny fraction of the \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus that's been squandered since the current administration came to office.

To hold up funding for all the non-defense areas of Government in order to claim credit for fiscal responsibility over such a tiny proportion of overall spending is the height of irresponsibility.

Unfortunately, it is crystal clear that is precisely what our Republican colleagues would like to see happen. They want to run the Government on a starvation diet into next year. Because the House resolution is now the only way to keep the Government operating, it will be passed by voice vote. But I want to be very clear that, if there had been a recorded vote on this measure, I would have voted no.

Mr. REID. Madam President, basically what we have just done is pass a continuing resolution until November 22. This is done with some trepidation and really with the complete understanding that this is not the right way to run Government. It would have been so much better had we been able to pass our appropriations bills. We have not been able to do that. We have 13 appropriations bills we should pass every year. I don't have the exact number, but I think following the passage of the Defense appropriations bill, we have